class infrastructure facilities; developing structures that maximize the role of Public Private partnership; and monitoring of key infrastructure projects.

The Committee will deal with Railways, roads, ports, airports, telecom, petroleum and power sectors. To begin with, sector-wise policy initiatives and action plans are being prepared by the Planning commission in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments.

(d) While the sector-wise details of FII investments are not available, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the power, telecom, air/sea transport and ports sectors during first 6 months of this year *i.e.*, April-September, 2004 is Rs. 718 crore. The FDI in these sectors during the full financial year 2003-4 and 2002-03 was Rs. 1312 crore and Rs. 1526.5 crore, respectively.

Opening of branches of Himachal Rural Bank

†1218. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Government to open branches of Himachal rural bank after the issue of Gazette notification dated the 18th April, 2004 to carry out expansion of branches in Hamirpur and Mandi (Himachal Pradesh) area;

(b) whether this Bank has applied to Reserve Bank of India to obtain the licence for opening its branches;

(c) if so, when did it apply; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the licence would be issued and the branches of the bank start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Himachal Gramin Bank (HGB) has opened 3 branches at Hamirpur, Una and Bilaspur on 7.1.2002, 8.1.2002 and 22.1.2003 respectively after issuance of the gazette nofification dated 18.4.2000.

(b) to (d) A proposal from Himachal Gramin Bank for opening four new

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

branches at Amroh (Hamirpur Distt.) Chintpurni (Una District), Amb (Una Distt.) and Ghumuarwin (Bilaspur Distt.) was received by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on July 31, 2004. The approval for issue of licences for opening the aforesaid branches has been conveyed by RBI to its Regional Office on December 6, 2004.

Downgrading of credit rating of Maharashtra

1219. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Credit Analysis and Research Ltd. (CARE) has downgraded the credit rating of the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the credit rating of Maharashtra which was considered at one time the richest and most industrialized State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Taking over of PSU Bank by IDBI

1220. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IDBI has decided to take over a PSU bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for taking over the particular bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.